

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
Middletown Municipal Center
April 11, 2016

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Ernell Graham	Kitty Devilbiss	Mary Beachley	John Brown	
Carol Haag	Sue Ramsburg	Elizabeth Chung		
Tom Lawler	Carolyn True	M.C. Keegan-Ayer		
Dianne Lewis		Randy McClement, Mayor		
Ann McDermott		Katie Rhinehart- Hemler		
Tish Raff				
Marie Reeves				
Thea Ruff				
Leslie Schultz				
Bobbie Speace				
Sandra Wastler				

- I. **Call to Order** – Dianne Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:47pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Dianne welcomed all attendees. She thanked the members of Middletown Valley People Helping People and the town officers who attended the presentation prior to today's meeting for their services to the Middletown Valley seniors.

- III. **Action on the Agenda** – No new agenda items.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the March 8th meeting were approved with two corrections. Bobbie Speace should be indicated as present at the March meeting. On page three, last paragraph should read “Seniors” First instead of “Senior” First. Leslie Shultz made a motion to approve the minutes and Tom Lawler seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. **Update of Dept of Aging Activities, Carolyn True** – Carolyn thanked Carol Haag for putting together the meeting with the Middletown Valley People Helping People group. The group does a tremendous job of taking care of their local seniors who have needs.

Early voting will be taking place in Frederick County starting Thursday, April 14. It will be held at the Frederick Senior Center and the public libraries in Urbana and in Thurmont. It will be held for seven days including the weekend from 10:00am until 8:00pm.

The County Executive will be presenting her budget this Friday, April 15 at 11:00 at Winchester Hall.

There will be a volunteer breakfast on Wednesday, April 20th which will be held at Country Meadows at 8:30am. All Commission on Aging members are invited to attend.

The Area Plan instructions were just received on Thursday, April 7. The staff will be meeting this week to prepare the update which is due to the state on May 6. Input from this Commission for the Area Plan is required according to the by-laws. Carolyn will need information from the Commission by Monday, April 18. The Area Plan is an update only this year, not a rewrite as was done last year. Carolyn stated that if anyone has suggestions for the Area Plan they can call or email her. She will get a copy to Dianne as soon as it is completed. Two initiatives that will be added this year are the Music and Memory program and the Stepping On program which are both new initiatives.

There will be a Health Fair at the Frederick Senior Center on April 26th hosted by the Towson Nursing Students. There will be health screenings, car seat checks (for grandparents), speakers, and vision screenings. This event is organized and presented by the nursing students as their capstone project for the semester.

May is Older American month. The senior centers will begin walking programs during this month. Emmitsburg Senior Center will begin a “Stepping On” program which is an evidence-based program utilizing

federal funds. This is a Health Promotion/Disease Prevention program. This program will cycle through each of the County senior centers.

The County Executive proposed that organizations, municipalities, non-profits could apply for funding through the Community Partnership Grants. There are step by step instructions on the County website to apply for this grant. There is necessary documentation/data that is required in order to apply for the funding.

The Dept of Aging will be hosting our annual Law Day which gives citizens an opportunity to make an Advanced Directive/Living Will with assistance of pro-bono lawyers. It will be available at the four County senior centers and the Thurmont Senior Center on May 3rd. Carolyn will ask the lead attorney about hosting a site in Middletown or other community sites.

Carolyn stated that there is a four acre lot available in Middletown for a library and a senior center. It will have water and sewer to it and will be available by the end of the year. This currently does not have a place in the Capital Improvement Program within the County. There will be an opportunity for community input. This is just the beginning of a process.

- VI. United Seniors of Maryland, Tish Raff** - The group met on March 21st in Annapolis. The speaker did not show for the meeting so the time was spent on revisions to the brochure. Tish had some copies of the brochure which she distributed at the meeting. The USM website is not updated. The next meeting will be in April.

Seniors First, Mary Beachley – Mary was unable to attend today's meeting. Dianne announced that there will be a focus group between the Seniors First and the Commission members after the May meeting. Tish stated that there are other public meetings scheduled as part of outreach from the Seniors First group.

Partner's in Care, Ernell Graham - Ernell announced that Sarah is back to work part time. She gave statistics for the January through March 2016 quarter. Partner's in Care has consumers which could be providers and/or recipients of services. Sarah will be presenting at the AARP lunch meeting in March and at St Catherine's Drexel in April. She will also be a participant in the Frederick Unity Campaign. She continues to work on grant applications and funding options for the program.

- VII. Focus Group/Senior's First Group** - Not addressed at today's meeting.

VIII. Nominating Committee, Bobbie Speace – Bobbie stated that seven new applications have been received for membership to the Commission. We now have a full Commission. Two current membership terms will expire in June of this year. All the applications will be reviewed for membership.

Business Task Force, Tom Lawler – Tom presented the handouts created by the Dept of Aging which were distributed at the recent Healthy Business Forum held at FMH Crestwood. These flyers were designed to educate employers and employees about caregiving services available in the County. The next initiative is an informal transportation forum in May. Tom stated that H.R departments are not always proactive about senior issues and how caregiving may affect their employees.

Public Policy, Ann McDermott – Ann updated the group on some of the items that were discussed at last month's meeting. The increased funding that was proposed for the Senior Activity Center has attachments which may steer the funds to areas that are economically challenged. The income tax exemption for seniors will cause a decrease in revenue and will probably not happen. The Attorney Generals office will become an advocate for seniors who have been exploited financially. The comprehensive plan proposed by Carol Krimm will not happen. There is a medical marijuana bill for seniors which allows caregivers to help the senior access the product. The Maryland Alzheimer's Commission has become a permanent council. There was a suggestion for a vulnerable adult abuse registry which works similar to a child abuse registry. This was referred to the Office of Healthcare Quality for a summer study. There is a bill that will require hospitals to notify Medicare patients if they are in observation status as opposed to an actual admission. This has become an issue because of billing consequences for Medicare patients. The legislative issue ends today.

Health, Mary Beachley – Mary was not at today's meeting.

Aging in Place and Community, Thea Ruff – Thea stated that this is a work in progress. She has been doing some research and has created a purpose statement which she read at today's meeting.

Communications and Outreach, Sandra Wastler – Sandra stated that her committee is just getting started. She did create a purpose statement. The purpose of this committee is to find out where the seniors are meeting and to develop a contact list of organizations, clubs, churches, senior centers, and activities supported by seniors

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of Frederick County. Sandra asked that if anyone is aware of senior groups, please get in touch with her with contact information.

Program Planning, Dianne Lewis, Leslie Schultz – This group will work to bring subject and planners to the monthly CoA meetings. The hope is the other subcommittees will also be able to come up with presenters for meetings. Some good topics would be crime, housing, Transit, DSS/senior care funds, and caregiving stress. Leslie will send a list out to all Commission members to get other ideas. It will be a flexible list and subject to change. It would be great to get more seniors involved in the monthly meetings and get feedback from them. Leslie suggested possibly getting some time on the local TV channel. Dianne and Leslie will be getting together with Councilwoman M.C. Keegan-Ayer to discuss options for TV coverage. They would also like to work on increasing awareness in local newspaper outlets.

IX. Announcements -

X. Public Comment –

XI. Adjournment -

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary